

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are hereby amended.

Claims 3-6 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The features of claims 3 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 7.

Therefore, claims 1 and 7 are patentable.

Claim 4 is hereby rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Therefore, claim 4 is patentable.


It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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